



**Town of Esopus  
Waterfront Advisory Board -  
Meeting via Zoom  
August 26, 2020 Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairperson Mercedes Ross, Chet Allen, Dale Wolfield, Margaret Phelan, Carol Tomassetti, Vincent Coq and Marion Zimmer.

**Excused:** Eli Schloss

**Also Present:** Town Board Member Kathy Quick, Environmental Board Member Susan Barbarisi, and Outreach Coordinator Alex Dean

Minutes of May and June 2020 were approved. The July 22, 2020 Minutes were tabled until the September meeting.

**RPC Update** - Waiting for comments from the Fire Department and Esopus Parks and Recreation.

**Zoning Task Force** - Mercedes Ross provided a list (increased residential options, density, managing tree removal in scenic areas and regular storage and bus shelters) which topics were covered on August 3, 2020 by the ZTF.

**LWRP** - On hold until at least September 23, 2020.

**Sleightsburg Spit Mediation-** Carol Tomassetti stated two facilitation sessions and one mediation session had taken place. The first residential facilitation meeting with residents could be described as “charged.”

The mediation session the following week resulted in a possible consensus being reached. When the residents returned for the second meeting, there was no consensus between anglers, boaters, kayakers and residents. Margaret Phelan was the representative for the WAB as well as Board Members, a Sheriff representative, residents and representatives from the fishing and hunting community - missing was representation from the DEC. The Town Board will need to make a decision and had requested that the Subcommittee recommendations. The recommendations would need to be in writing and reviewed prior to submitting to the Town Board. Suggestions to date included:

- Include cameras at the entrance and launch which should be tied into the Sheriff's Department;
- Better lighting at launch area;
- Traffic speed down Broadway with additional stop signs;
- Carded electronic gate for access with the flexibility considered for striper fisherman, and goose and duck seasons which needs earlier hours of access. Duck hunting had differing hours request often based on location of the duck blinds;

- Issue that required attention was people being stuck in the park after hours and being towed. Discussion was to allow egress but no ingress after 9:00 p.m. Tricky part during striper season was allowing people to continue to fish from dock which sometimes occurred over night. The cameras could provide real data that may be looked at to create an initial plan. Careful not to render policy that would dictate to other parks; and
- Fee for special access card was discussed with varying amount charge to residents, Countywide and out of County.

Carol Tomassetti did note that the carded parks may require special attention during the winter months for individuals wishing to snow shoe, etc. but that the Team had not discussed that item. Marion Zimmer stated that the access to parks was not plowed during winter season but it was agreed that this may a long term goal to be phased in later. The Team was hoping to present to the Town Board by the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Margaret Phelan agreed to generate a “thank you” letter from the WAB to the Dispute Resolution Center and would present at the next meeting. The mediators were fabulous and have asked Margaret to provide the outcome of the work that had been done.

**Chester** - Carol Tomassetti stated that Chester was done for the season. Cutting had ceased earlier than usual due to the waterchestnuts going to seed. Arrangements were being made to pull the boat. Good participation had taken place this year despite the challenging conditions, with teams being comprised of residents which included the Bruderhoff, Hidden Harbor Boat Club and Riverview Condos.

**Environmental Board** – Susan Barbarisi informed the WAB that the EB was looking at its mission statement and had been working on a Design Thinking Project to determine what would suit them best in whether to remain as an Environmental Board or become a Conservation Advisory Board or Conservation Action Committee, what the differences were and what would best serve the Town. The EB was also investigating more effective ways to educate the public on environmental issues. Mercedes Ross stated that generating a recycling newsletter may be useful in that regard and could be placed on the Town website. Councilperson Quick indicated that the Transfer Station supervisor could provide useful information to be circulated.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Dated: September 20, 2020

Approved: September 23, 2020